



Town of Highland Park, Texas
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA

8:00 AM
March 17, 2026

4700 Drexel Drive Highland Park, TX 75205
Town Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the agenda is the public's opportunity to address the Town Council about any item listed on the agenda, except public hearings. Comments related to public hearings will be heard when the specific hearing begins. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, unless otherwise required by law. Per the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Town Council is not permitted to take action on or discuss any item not listed on the agenda. Items suggested for action may be placed on a future agenda at the Town Council's sole discretion.

IV. PROCLAMATION

- A. Mayor Will C. Beecherl will read a proclamation recognizing Friday, March 20, 2026, as "Celebration of Story Day" in the Town of Highland Park.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

All items under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion and vote. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a request by a Council Member is made prior to the time of the Town Council voting on the motion. In such event, the item will be removed, without debate, from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence.

- A. Take action on (1) approval of a Resolution authorizing the Town's participation in the 791 Purchasing Cooperative and (2) authorization for the Town Administrator (or designee) to execute the required Master Interlocal Agreement.
- B. Take action on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on March 3, 2026.
- C. Take action on the minutes of the Town Council study session held on March 3, 2026.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Any item on this posted agenda could be discussed in closed session as long as it is within one of the permitted categories under Sections 551.071 through 551.076 and 551.087 of the Texas Government Code.

A member of the public may address the governing body regarding an item on the agenda either before or during the body's consideration of the item, upon being recognized by the presiding officer or the consent of the body.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS: Let us know if you

need special assistance of any kind.
Please contact the Town of Highland Park Administrative staff at (214) 521-4161 from 7:30 a.m.
- 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



**Town of Highland Park
Town Council
Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

Item Coversheet

Mayor Will C. Beecherl will read a proclamation recognizing Friday, March 20, 2026, as “Celebration of Story Day” in the Town of Highland Park.

PRESENTED BY:

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Highland Park joins Southern Methodist University (“SMU”) in recognizing Friday, March 20, 2026, as “Celebration of Story Day.” In coordination with World Storytelling Day, SMU English is organizing a regional Celebration of Story Day initiative that highlights the importance of storytelling in education, civic life, and the arts. The effort includes a public-facing broadcast program, a light show on the façade of Dallas Hall, and a coordinated lighting initiative among downtown Dallas buildings, all designed to showcase North Texas’s shared commitment to literacy, creativity, and community dialogue.

RECOMMENDATION

None.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no financial impact.

ATTACHMENTS

Proclamation - Celebration of Story Day March 20, 2026



Proclamation

Town of Highland Park, Texas

WHEREAS, World Storytelling Day is a global celebration observed each year on the vernal equinox, when people across many countries take part in sharing and listening to stories that reflect their cultures and lived experiences; and

WHEREAS, since its beginning in 2001, this observance has grown into an international tradition that encourages the exchange of stories and strengthens the sense of community among storytellers and audiences worldwide; and

WHEREAS, storytelling has long served as a way for communities to pass down history, wisdom, and shared values, preserving cultural heritage and helping people understand the experiences of others; and

WHEREAS, the practice of storytelling continues to evolve and thrive in spoken, written, visual, and digital forms, offering people of all ages opportunities to learn, imagine, and connect with one another; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Highland Park and Highland Park ISD are enriched by a strong tradition of civic engagement, educational excellence, and cultural life, where schools, libraries, families, and community organizations foster creativity, literacy, and meaningful dialogue; and

WHEREAS, Southern Methodist University, located adjacent to Highland Park, has for more than a century contributed to the cultural and educational vitality of the community through its commitment to the arts and humanities, including the Department of English and other programs that nurture writers, scholars, educators, and creative voices who strengthen the region's storytelling tradition; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Will C. Beecherl, on behalf of the Town Council of the Town of Highland Park, Texas, do hereby proclaim March 20, 2026, as

Celebration of Story Day

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Town of Highland Park, Texas to be affixed hereto on this 17th day of March 2026.

Will C. Beecherl
Mayor



**Town of Highland Park
Town Council
Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

Item Coversheet

Take action on (1) approval of a Resolution authorizing the Town's participation in the 791 Purchasing Cooperative and (2) authorization for the Town Administrator (or designee) to execute the required Master Interlocal Agreement.

PRESENTED BY: John Samford, Director of Finance

BACKGROUND:

Texas Government Code §271.102 authorizes local governments to participate in cooperative purchasing programs that offer goods and services procured through competitive processes in accordance with applicable law. Named after Texas Local Government Code Chapter 791, "Interlocal Cooperation Contracts," the 791 Purchasing Cooperative ("791 COOP") administers such a program, providing participating governmental entities access to competitively procured contracts for a wide array of products and services, including uniforms, facilities, and fleet management.

The Town is currently a member of several cooperative purchasing programs. Adding 791 COOP will expand the Town's access to competitively procured contracts that may not be available through existing cooperative agreements. Membership in 791 COOP can enhance administrative efficiency and provide an additional procurement option that may benefit the Town and its taxpayers through economies of scale.

Participation in 791 COOP is offered at no cost to state and local agencies. The cooperative is funded through fees paid by participating vendors.

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends approval of the Resolution authorizing participation in the 791 COOP and to authorize the Town Administrator (or designee) to execute the required Master Interlocal Agreement along with any documents reasonably necessary to implement the Town's participation in the 791 COOP.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no financial impact at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Res. No. 005-26, TexasInterlocalAgreement REV SBT TL ex

RESOLUTION NO. 005-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE 791 PURCHASING COOPERATIVE AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, the Town of Highland Park, Texas (“Town”) is authorized under the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Texas Government Code, to contract with other governmental entities and cooperative purchasing programs to perform governmental functions and services, including purchasing; and

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code §271.102 authorizes local governments to participate in cooperative purchasing programs to purchase goods and services that have been competitively procured in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the 791 Purchasing Cooperative (“791 COOP”) administers a cooperative purchasing program through which participating governmental entities may access competitively procured contracts for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that participation in cooperative purchasing programs may increase administrative efficiency and provide an additional procurement option that may benefit the Town and its taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to participate in the 791 Purchasing Cooperative by entering into a Master Interlocal Agreement for cooperative purchasing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS THAT:

SECTION 1. The Town Council hereby authorizes participation in the 791 Purchasing Cooperative for cooperative purchasing purposes.

SECTION 2. The Town Administrator (or designee) is authorized to execute the Master Interlocal Agreement with 791 Purchasing Cooperative and any documents reasonably necessary to implement the Town’s participation in the cooperative.

SECTION 3. The Town may utilize contracts available through the 791 Purchasing Cooperative when such use is determined to be in the best interest of the Town and in compliance with applicable Texas procurement laws.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 17th day of March, 2026.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Susan Thomas
Town Attorney

ATTEST:

Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary

APPROVED:

Will C. Beecherl
Mayor

MASTER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

This Master Interlocal Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between 791 Purchasing Cooperative, LLC (“791 COOP”) and the Town of Highland Park, Texas (“End User”), (collectively referred to as the “Parties” or individually as a “Party”) acting herein by and through their respective authorized officers, agents, and/or employees.

PURPOSE

WHEREAS, the federal, state, and territorial governments of the United States of America have expressly authorized and encouraged the use of cooperative purchasing agreements to increase quality and efficiency in purchasing for public, publicly funded, and other legally authorized entities; and

WHEREAS, 791 Purchasing Cooperative LLC through its purchasing cooperative named 791 Purchasing Cooperative is committed to providing cooperative purchasing contracts with lead public agencies to eligible organizations, including, but not limited to, public and private K12 schools, cities, counties, institutions of higher education, and other eligible units of government ("Authorized Users") in all states in order to increase quality and efficiency in purchasing; and

WHEREAS, 791 COOP is authorized to contract with Authorized Users, including End User, by Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 252, 262, and 2269 of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 44 of the Texas Education Code, and other relevant federal and state laws to provide goods and services through legally compliant mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, The Parties wish to enter into this Agreement to maximize spending power of End User entity and provide increased efficiency in the sourcing and purchase of goods and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, premises considered, and in consideration of and conditional upon the mutual covenants and agreements herein, the Parties herein mutually agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

- 1. Incorporation of Recitals:** The recitals stated above are incorporated into this Agreement for all purposes as if fully set forth herein.
- 2. Term:** This Agreement is effective for ten (10) years from the date of the last signature. Thereafter, this Agreement shall automatically renew annually unless either Party gives sixty (60) days prior written notice of non-renewal. Either Party may terminate this Agreement for convenience upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other Party.
- 3. Permissions:** This Agreement shall: (1) allow End User to purchase goods and services by purchase order, contract, agreement, or other legally permitted mechanisms through 791 COOP’s competitively awarded vendor list; (2) allow the End User to access 791 COOP’s cooperative contracts to purchase products or services from vendors which have been awarded contracts through statutorily authorized



**Town of Highland Park
Town Council
Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

Item Coversheet

**Take action on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on
March 3, 2026.**

PRESENTED BY: Joanna Mekeal, Town Secretary

BACKGROUND:

Attached are the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on March 3, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no financial impact.

ATTACHMENTS

2026-3-3 TC Minutes

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, 4700 DREXEL DRIVE, HIGHLAND PARK, TX, 75205, AT 8:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026.

Mayor Will C. Beecherl, Mayor Pro Tem Don Snell, and Council Members Alan Friedman, Marc Myers, Lydia Novakov, and Leland White attended the meeting.

I. Mayor Will C. Beecherl called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. Mayor Pro Tem Don Snell gave the Invocation.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Beecherl asked if anyone wished to address the Town Council about any item listed on the agenda and explained that the Town Council may not discuss or make decisions on items not listed on the agenda. Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker unless otherwise required by law. Items suggested for action may be placed on a future agenda at the Town Council's discretion. No comment was made.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Council Member Alan Friedman, seconded by Council Member Lydia Novakov, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve Items A. through E. on the Consent Agenda. Prior to the vote, Mayor Beecherl explained that all items under the Consent Agenda are considered routine or discussed at a previous meeting. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a request by a Council Member is made prior to the Town Council voting on the motion.

- A. *Take action to formally accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and related audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025.*
- B. *Take action authorizing the Town Administrator to execute a professional services agreement with Legacy Engineering Group for the Douglas Avenue Reconstruction project.*
- C. *Take action authorizing the Town Administrator to execute a professional services agreement with Garver, LLC for the Eastern Avenue Reconstruction project.*
- D. *Take action on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on February 17, 2026.*
- E. *Take action on the minutes of the Town Council study session held on February 17, 2026.*

V. PUBLIC HEARING

A. *Conduct a public hearing, review, discuss, and take action on a proposed replat creating Lots 16R and 17R, Block 16, a replat of part of Lot 16 and all of Lots 17, 18, and 19, Block 16, 3rd Installment of Mount Vernon Addition, located at 3924 Mockingbird Lane. Jeff Armstrong, A.C.I.P, Director of Development Services, explained that the property contains an existing single-family residence on approximately 36,553 square feet and is zoned "D" One-Family Residential. The applicant proposes to replat the site into two lots. Both proposed lots exceed the district's 9,500-square-foot minimum lot size requirement, with Lot 16R measuring approximately 21,000*

square feet and Lot 17R approximately 15,000 square feet. The existing residence will remain on Lot 16R and will continue to meet all setback requirements. The property was assembled under common ownership over time. The existing home at 3924 Mockingbird Lane was originally built on Lots 17 and 18 and the west 20 feet of Lot 16, while Lot 19 was purchased by the owner in 2013, but never formally combined. The lot has remained unfenced and used primarily for gardening. The proposed replat will regularize the lot lines and create two distinct lots. Lot 17R could be sold separately in the future, although it is not currently being marketed, and no sale timeline has been provided. Mayor Beecherl opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to make a comment. Hearing none, Mayor Beecherl closed the public hearing. On a motion made by Council Member Lydia Novakov, seconded by Council Member Alan Friedman, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve a replat creating Lots 16R and 17R, Block 16, a replat of part of Lot 16 and all of Lots 17, 18, and 19, Block 16, 3rd Installment of Mount Vernon Addition, located at 3924 Mockingbird Lane.

VI. MAIN AGENDA

A. Review, discuss, and take action on a resolution validating the annual review of the Statement of Investment Policies as adopted by the Town of Highland Park and approving recommended changes. John Samford, C.P.A, Director of Finance, explained that the Town's Investment Policy complies with Chapter 2256 Public Funds Investment Act ("PFIA") and Chapter 2257 Public Funds Collateral Act of the Texas Government Code and reflects the Town's investment strategies. Its primary objectives are the safety of the principal, maintaining sufficient liquidity for operational needs, and optimizing market-rate returns. The PFIA requires the Town Council to review the policy annually. For this year, there are no legislative updates or changes to the investment strategy; the recommended revisions are minor and include updates to the table of contents and revisions to Section 5.2 Prudence to align with PFIA language. On a motion made by Council Member Lydia Novakov, seconded by Council Member Alan Friedman, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve a resolution validating the annual review of the Statement of Investment Policies as adopted by the Town of Highland Park and approving recommended changes.

B. Review, discuss, and take action on canceling the Town Council meeting on August 4, 2026, and scheduling a Town Council meeting on August 11, 2026. Joanna Mekeal, T.R.M.C, Town Secretary, stated that the August 4, 2026, Town Council meeting is proposed to be canceled and rescheduled for August 11, 2026. This adjustment is necessary because certified property values from the Dallas Central Appraisal District are expected on July 25, 2026, and the Dallas County Tax Assessor typically requires three to five business days to prepare the official tax rate calculations, which would prevent the Town from meeting the state agenda posting deadline for the August 4 meeting. The August 18, 2026, Town Council meeting will remain scheduled to allow for final review of the proposed budget prior to its anticipated adoption on September 1, 2026, though it may be canceled if no further discussion is needed. On a motion made by Council Member Lydia Novakov, seconded by Council Member Alan Friedman, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve canceling the Town Council meeting on August 4, 2026, and scheduling a Town Council meeting on August 11, 2026.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Beecherl adjourned the Town Council meeting at 8:16 a.m.

APPROVED on this 17th day of March 2026.

APPROVED:

Will C. Beecherl
Mayor

ATTEST:

Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary



**Town of Highland Park
Town Council
Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

Item Coversheet

**Take action on the minutes of the Town Council study session held
on March 3, 2026.**

PRESENTED BY: Joanna Mekeal, Town Secretary

BACKGROUND:

Attached are minutes of the Town Council study session held on March 3, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no financial impact.

ATTACHMENTS

2026-03-03 TCSS Minutes

MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, HELD AT TOWN HALL, 4700 DREXEL DRIVE, HIGHLAND PARK, TX, 75205, AT 8:23 A.M. ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026.

Mayor Will C. Beecherl, Mayor Pro Tem Don Snell, and Council Members Alan Friedman, Marc Myers, Lydia Novakov, and Leland White attended the meeting.

I. Mayor Will C. Beecherl called the meeting to order at 8:23 a.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Beecherl asked if anyone wished to address the Town Council about any item listed on the agenda and explained that the Town Council may not discuss or make decisions on items not listed on the agenda. Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker unless otherwise required by law. Items suggested for action may be placed on a future agenda at the Town Council's discretion. There was no comment.

III. FUTURE AGENDA DISCUSSIONS

A. Review, discuss, and consider the opportunity for a Town Council Member to request an item to be placed on a future Town Council Meeting agenda. Mayor Beecherl asked if any Town Council Member would like to request that an item be placed on a future Town Council study session agenda for discussion or consideration. Council Member Lydia Novakov requested an update on the backflow program that was approved at a previous meeting.

IV. REPORTS

A. Review and discuss the 2025 Horse-Drawn Carriage Report. Chief Chuck McGinnis, Director of the Department of Public Safety (“DPS”), explained that the Town’s Code of Ordinances establishes regulations governing horse-drawn carriage (“carriage”) operations. During the 2025 season, four licensed vendors operated within the Town, employing a total of 81 carriage drivers and utilizing 65 permitted carriages. Carriage tours typically last approximately one hour. Chief McGinnis presented an overview of the applicable ordinance, the carriage fee structure, DPS call intake related to carriage operations, and the list of licensed vendors for 2025. He also provided a comparison of fees collected and gross revenue for the 2024 and 2025 seasons. Following the presentation, the Town Council recommended conducting a limited audit of the carriage companies to verify that the rides reported by the vendors accurately reflect the number of tours provided.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Beecherl adjourned the Study Session at 10:23 a.m.

APPROVED on this 17th day of March 2026.

APPROVED:

Will C. Beecherl
Mayor

ATTEST:

Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary